

**EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
APRIL 11, 2007
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance:

Gail Brown (Chairman), Mary E. Brower (Vice Chairman), Ann Keen (Member), Elaine Preston, (Secretary), Lynn Coine (Member), Roy Kolb (Planning Commission Liaison), Phyllis Snyder (Member) absent

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM

Public Attendance

R. Preston, Supervisor, 2013 E. Cedarville Road,
R. Miller, Supervisor , Zieber Road,
L. Tietjen, Resident, 131 Maack Road (Maack Residential)

Minutes

L. Coine motioned to accept the minutes of March 28, 2007 with the correct spelling of L. Tietjen name

Ann Keen seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Public Comment

- L. Tietjen asked what it means that his house is on the National Historic Register Eligible. G. Brown explained the property has been evaluated and has met the criteria for eligibility. It is listed 'eligible' as at the time of evaluation the owner had an objection to the nomination. Upon receipt of statements from the owner that the owner no longer objects to the listing, the property will be updated as 'listed'.
- Mr. Tietjen asked if he had the property 'listed' and somebody after him does not want it on the National Historic Register, can they take it off? G. Brown said she did not know, but he could contact the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) for more information
- Mr. Tietjen also asked how he may retrieve the documentation for the research performed on his property. G. Brown stated the Historical Commission plans at some time in the future to make an appointment to retrieve Historic Property Listed/Eligible from the state archives. Again, he may want to contact the PHMC. G. Brown stated he could 'Google' the National Parks Service or the PHMC for more information.

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- L. Tietjen also suggested that we send out a quarterly e-mail or possibly a Newsletter to interested residents in the community to keep them abreast of what is going on in the Township, historically. We stated the Township has produced a newsletter in the past, but we believe it may have been sent out last in 2005. L. Tietjen also suggested that we start a list of historically minded persons who might be willing to support and help the Historical Commission when we need additional support. L. Coine stated we are trying to do that. We have submitted a recruitment document to the Township for inclusion in the web page to help achieve that end.

2008 Calendar (pertinent discussion)

- G. Brown reported to the Historical Commission members that she had contacted PECO for the purpose of obtaining a release for the use of current photographs of Fricks Locks to use in comparison to past photographs (1960's or older). The purpose for use in the 2008 calendar to increase public awareness of the current condition and deterioration of the village. G. Brown emphasized in her comments to PECO that the Commission feels that the burden for maintenance should not fall on PECO, as owners, or the Township, as lessee, alone. As a National Historic Register District, grants and funds should be sought and raised through various opportunities. PECO requested we obtain approval for the theme and content of the proposed calendar. Although the Commission has not in the past requested nor required approval for theme or content from the Board of Supervisors, G. Brown consented to PECO's request. The proposed calendar was presented to the Board of Supervisors at their April 2, 2007 meeting. J. Doering, A. Rinehart and J. Koury, Township Solicitor strongly opposed the proposed calendar. Mr. Doering indicated he had not talked with anyone at PECO, but felt this approach would be objectionable to PECO. Mr. Koury, stated we were finally making progress with Fricks Lock (referenced Schuylkill River letter of March 12, 2007) and felt the proposed calendar would be detrimental to further progress. G. Brown suggested, as an alternate, we produce a calendar of only historical pictures of Fricks Locks. As she did not obtain concurrence from the Supervisors, she invited them to attend the April 11, 2007 Historical Commission meeting to review a revised calendar. Mr. Robert Preston and Mrs. Rose Miller are in attendance.
- M. Brower and A. Keen reworked the calendar again and presented it to the Historical Commission. The East Coventry Historical Commission worked and

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re-worked the pictures so that they showed life on the Canal and in the Village as they would have been when the canals were active. E. Preston will request on Thursday, April 12, 2007 to be placed on the Agenda for Board of Supervisors meeting Monday, April 16, 2007 to discuss the 2008 Calendar and request approval.

- R. Preston, Supervisor commented that the Board of Supervisors should use its other Committees within the Township to get more involved to help take some of the work load off the Supervisors.
- G. Brown commented that the Historical Commission has not received any follow-up on the Schuylkill River letter of March 12, 2007. This letter suggested the Township may wish to 'partner' with their organization to obtain the goals of the Simone Collins study. If the Township has interest, they were invited to contact the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area to establish a time and a place to meet. Mr. J. Koury is President of the Schuylkill River Organization.
- G. Brown further stated that to her knowledge in her three (3) years of membership with the East Coventry Historical Commission, we have not been party to any discussions concerning Fricks Locks between the Township, PECO/Exelon, or any other organization. No other members could recall any discussion as noted.
- Rose Miller, Supervisor commented that she and Tim Roland, Supervisor attended a meeting with Andrew Dinnman and he would like to see that East Coventry gets some money for Fricks Locks and he will call a meeting and Chair the meeting with representatives from the State, Board of Supervisors, Historical Commission, Exelon. E. Preston requested of R. Miller that possibly the meeting could be held here at East Coventry Township Building. R. Miller said she would look into that. The new year of grants starts July 1 and there will be a meeting starting in June for the grants. R. Miller said that the forms are the same as last year and they should be relatively easy to fill out and A. Dinnman has a young man on his office staff that could help, not do, the forms.
- R. Miller also reported that the Northern Federation which she attends for the Board of Supervisors is looking at the Trail System and it will go near the area of Fricks Locks Village.
- R. Miller and R. Preston then previewed the Historical Commission's final version of the calendar and commented that it was a good calendar.

Subdivision and Land Development

Wineberry - Class I, National Register Eligible

- G. Brown, reported to the Historical Commission the Supervisors decision, in regard to the stone retaining wall, is to move the retaining wall from one side of Maack Road to the other and make a trail marker for the horse trails behind the

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houses on lot #11 and lot #12. The markers would be two stones high (approximately 12 to 18 inches high), laid on the ground and without mortar. There will be intermittent six foot breaks so the home owners will be able to get their lawn mowers through so they will be able to mow the trail. This trail marker will only go as far as the quantity of stone removed will allow, no additional stone will be added to complete. The Historical Commission discussed the possibility of retaining the original motion for the wall to be rebuilt on the Maack residential property, rescinding the original motion and making a new motion for the stone to be incorporated in a structured manner into the landscape by the landscape architect, or leave the situation as is.

- M. Brower motioned that the original motion for the wall be rebuilt on the Maack residential property. G. Brown to present to the Board of Supervisors and request reconsideration.

L. Coine seconded the motion

The motion was unanimously approved

Walley et al Tract

- G. Brown stated the Walley Tract received sketch plan approval.
- G. Brown stated that the historic resources identified on the plans were nicely done. She further stated the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) is not specific as to the method to identify historic resources. Also, there is conflicting requirements as it states resources within 500' in one statement and 'adjoining' in another statement. Mr. R. Kolb stated it is his understanding the greater distance would apply in this case.

Neuman Subdivision

- We are requesting compliance with preliminary plan requirements in accordance with SALDO. Specifically identification of adjoining historic resources.

Discussion Items

- E. Preston is to request of Code Enforcement to put copies of all Demolition Permits in our box. Also there was a Historic Barn torn down and E. Preston is to retrieve the Demolition Permit.
- All members of the Historical Commission were requested to attend the Monday, April 16, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting for presentation of the 2008 proposed Calendar.
- All members of the Commission are continuing the work on the Historic Resource map. This is an on-going job. E. Preston reported that the Chester County

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Historical Society sent one section of East Coventry 1798 Glass Tax. Chester County Historical will continue to do the other sections and send them to the East Coventry Historical Commission.

- L. Coine and E. Preston handed out the business cards that they had printed. Additional business cards were given to B. Frisco for the business card holder in the foyer of the Township building.
- L. Coine and E. Preston handed out the paragraph that L. Coine wrote for recruitment of volunteers for the Historical Commission. After correction of typographical error identified by M. Brower, E. Preston will request B. Frisco add to the Township web page.
- G. Brown discussed information regarding programs offered through the Chester County Historical Society. In particular, a program for Girl Scouts "A Night at the Museum" was quite interesting. She forwarded the information to Tim Roland and Sherri Seiglee as they have younger children who might be interested. G. Brown is also inquiring who we might contact locally – PTA, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop leaders, etc. – to provide information of programs of interest to children and younger people.

Adjournment

L. Coine motioned to adjourn the meeting
E. Preston seconded the motion
The motion was approved unanimously
The meeting was adjourned 9:14PM

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine C. Preston,
Secretary
East Coventry Township Historical Commission